

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1172
By Phelan

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize John Wade Tucker, retired football coach of Milan High School, on the occasion of a roast to be held in his honor on Saturday, July 13, 2002.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to join in honoring those legendary athletic coaches of this state whose outstanding abilities in motivating young athletes have produced remarkable winning records and have assured their place in the annals of Tennessee sports history; and

WHEREAS, Coach John Wade Tucker led the Milan High School Bulldogs for 25 years, from 1969-93, creating a football dynasty, which won state championships in 1971 and 1977; his teams won 225 games, finished as runners-up in the 1993 state championship game, appeared in three state semifinals, won sixteen district and regional titles, two Jaycee Bowl Championships and finished with undefeated regular seasons eight times; and

WHEREAS, in his 43-year over-all coaching career, Coach Tucker coached 474 games at seven different high schools, including a 3-5-3 record at Parsons in 1955, an 11-15-2 record at Tiptonville from 1956-58, a 22-26-2 record at Hohenwald from 1959-63, a 35-12-2 record at

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Dickson from 1964-68, a 225-61-2 record at Milan from 1969-93, a 4-6 record at Gibson County in 1994, and a 32-7 record back at Milan from 1995 until his retirement in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Tucker became the winningest football coach in Milan High School and Tennessee high school football history in 1997, with an over-all record of 332 wins, 132 losses and ten ties for a .711 winning percentage; at Milan High School, from 1969-93, his record was 225 wins, 61 losses and two ties for a .785 winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, Coach Tucker won more games at Milan High School than twenty other Milan coaches together won between 1930 and 1997; among coaches at Milan High School, he ranks first in years coached (25), most games coached (288), most games won (225), and most games lost (61), and his quarter-century tenure there is a longer continuous tenure than any other athletic coach in Milan High School history; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, July 13, 2002, the Milan Quarterback Club will conduct a roast of Coach Tucker at Milan High School for the purpose of helping offset construction costs for an addition to the existing field house located behind Milan High School; the addition will house a film room and coaches' offices and will be named in honor of Coach John Tucker; and

WHEREAS, invited roasters include former University of Tennessee Volunteers Coach Johnny Majors, former Milan Principal and Superintendent Wylie Wheeler, former Humboldt head coach and Principal Jim Poteete, and former Bulldogs P.A. Pratt, Tim Jackson, Paul Poole and others; a reception will follow; and

WHEREAS, Coach John Tucker's exemplary record as a coach, motivator, and molder of character is the stuff of legend, and stands as an inspiration to his peers and all who follow him in the coaching profession; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to join with the members of the Milan Quarterback Club, present and former Milan Bulldogs, the Milan High School administration, faculty and student body, and the people of Milan and Gibson County in saluting the life and achievements of Coach Tucker; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That when honor and congratulate John Wade Tucker on his stellar record as coach of the Milan High School Bulldogs football team, thank him for his many contributions to the schools that he has served and for his positive influence upon many young lives, and offer to him and his wife Nancy every happiness and satisfaction in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.